

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9865

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL PERTH

UNCLAS CANBERRA 1284

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

ATMOSPHERICS:

THE MAJOR MEDIA EVENT OF THE WEEK HAS BEEN THE HARSH CRITICISM OF UGANDAN KILLINGS. WIDESPREAD EDITORIAL CONDEMNATION AND HEAVY PLAY TO INTERNATIONAL REACTION HAS MADE IT A CONTINUING ISSUE. US ITEMS IN THE NEWS WERE THE REVELATIONS OF CIA PAYMENTS TO FOREIGN LEADERS AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S BUDGET. NEITHER ISSUE MADE THE EDITORIAL COLUMNS. ON THE LOCAL SCENE, THE WEST AUSTRALIA ELECTION WITH THE SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY STRONG VICTORY BY THE LIBERAL-COUNTRY PARTY COALITION AND THE SECOND HIGHEST CONSUMER PRICE INDEX QUARTERLY JUMP SINCE WWII MADE THE HEADLINES.

PROGRAM:

VOLSPEAKER PROF. CHARLES ORLEBEKE PROVIDED TWO VERY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM DAYS IN SYDNEY WITH STATE UNCLASSIFIED

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DEVELOPMENT BODIES. BPAO IZENBERG RATED HIM "ENTIRELY SUCCESSFUL DUE TO HIS EXPERTIZE, COOPERATIVENESS AND THE APPROPRIATENESS OF HIS AUDIENCES". PLANNING FOR THE MARCH 4 OPENING OF "THE SAGA OF THE GREAT PLAINS" IS PROCEEDING APACE WITH THE ARRIVAL OF JOHN VORHES OF ICS. VORHES STOPPED IN SYDNEY ENROUTE TO MELBOURNE TO INSPECT THE OPERA HOUSE VENUE, THEN ON TO MELBOURNE TO

ASSIST IN THE SETUP. AMBASSADOR HARGROVE WILL DO THE HONORS FOR US AT THE MELBOURNE OPENING. THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE (ANZAAS) RELEASED THE RESULTS OF THE 14TH ANZAAS INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC FILM EXHIBITION FOR 1977. OF THE 11 FILMS ENTERED BY USIA, "SICKLE CELL ANEMIA" WAS SELECTED FOR A CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION, AND ALONG WITH FIVE OTHERS WILL BE EXHIBITED THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA UNTIL OCTOBER WITH AN EXPECTED AUDIENCE OF MORE THAN 50,000. THE FIVER OTHER FILMS SELECTED ARE "MARS AND BEYOND, SEARCH FOR THE WHALE, COMPUTING THE WEATHER, RETURN TO THE SEA AND ESTUARY. AMBASSADOR HARGROVE PRESENTED A COLLECTION OF AGENCY-SUPPLIED BOOKS AND PERIODICALS ON AMERICAN LABOR TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN TRADE UNIONS COUNCIL. SIMILAR COLLECTIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO EACH STATE LABOR LIBRARY. THE PRESENTATION WAS COVERED BY RADIO, TV AND THE PRESS. TRANSITION 77 HAS RECEIVED WIDE PLAY SINCE ITS ARRIVAL LAST WEEK. CANBERRA HELD A SHOWING IN THE NEW PREMISES FOR MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SYDNEY HAS USED IT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO SELECTED AUDIENCES. MELBOURNE AND PERTH ARE GEARING UP TO DO LIKEWISE. MOST NOTICEABLE RESULT OF USIS CANBERRA'S WEEKLY VTR SHOWINGS HAS BEEN INCREASE IN REQUESTS TO BORROW TAPES, ESPECIALLY FROM EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. LECTURERS HAVE BEGUN TO COME IN REGULARLY TO USE LIBRARY FACILITIES AND PREVIEW VTRS FOR INCORPORATION IN THEIR TEACHING

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PROGRAMS. SUBJECTS MOST FREQUENTLY COVERED ARE POLITICS, FOREIGN POLICY AND GENERAL AMERICAN STUDIES. INSTITUTIONS SO FAR INVOLVED INCLUDE HISTORY DEPARTMENT, ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, DUNTROON, ANU POLITICAL SCIENCE AND HISTORY DEPARTMENTS; AND AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES AT PHILLIP AND DICKSON COLLEGES. NEXT WEEK EXPECTING VISIT FROM HEAD DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFORMATION SUBSECTION, WHO RESPONSIBLE FOR AUSTRALIAN EMBASSIES FILM/VIDEO PROGRAMS AND WHO WISHES OBSERVE OUR SET-UP BEFORE INITIATING NEW PROGRAMS OVERSEAS.

THE AMERICAN FRONTIER EXHIBIT:
NOTHING BUT THANKS TO THE AGENCY ON THIS ONE. EVERYTHING APPEARS TO BE GOING JUST RIGHT AND IN GOOD TIME, WHICH IS NOT EXACTLY PAR FOR A MAJOR EXHIBIT. THE EXHIBIT IS HERE, THE VENUES WILL WORK OUT (MELBOURNE, ADELAIDE, SYDNEY), AND ICS'S JOHN VORHES IS HERE AND PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER. MELBOURNE PUBLICITY IS GOOD. MOUNT

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